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Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

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UNITED STATES.

Memorandum relative to attempt of schooner Wave to enter Key West without disinfection.

Referring to telegram from this office dated September 19, 1897, published in PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, page 1011, ordering schooner *Wave* to Tortugas (the captain having claimed that the State permitted it to enter Key West direct), information has been received from State Health Officer Joseph Y. Porter stating that the port sanitary inspector at Key West had already ordered said vessel to Tortugas. Dr. Porter emphatically denies the claim that the Florida authorities would have permitted her to enter Key West without first undergoing disinfection and detention.

Yellow fever in the South.

New Orleans.—Number of cases and deaths reported in the table. At the date of this report strenuous efforts are being made by the Louisiana State board of health to limit the spread of the disease in New Orleans by isolation of the sick, depopulation of infected districts, guarding infected premises, disinfection, etc. All baggage leaving New Orleans, except for points in the North and a few points in the mountainous districts, is being disinfected. Mail matter and freight are also being disinfected, the latter in accordance with the classification agreed upon by the Marine-Hospital Service and State health authorities of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Efforts are still being made by Surgeon Carter, in conjunction with the State board of health of Louisiana, to relieve unnecessary restraints upon traffic. Through the efforts of Surgeon Carter the restriction upon mail trains passing through

Lafayette Parish, La., has been removed. Surgeon Carter has also perfected the train inspection service on all trains leaving New Orleans.

Coast line of Mississippi between the Louisiana and Alabama State lines.— Surgeon Murray, in charge of Service matters in this district, exclusive of Camp Fontainebleau, has been actively engaged in supervising the cordons around the several infected districts, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, and Scranton, and effected arrangements for the protection of the fleet in Ship Island Harbor from infection from the coast towns. Surgeon Murray has also inspected a number of suspected localities and pronounced them free from yellow fever, and has supervised the disinfection of all mail leaving his district.

At Camp Fontainebleau Passed Assistant Surgeon White reports that 678 have been cared for, and 227 discharged and given free pratique between September 21 and September 30, inclusive. The camp is in excellent condition.

At Mobile, Passed Assistant Surgeon Glennan has supervised the disinfection of freight in accordance with the Service classification, disinfection of mails, baggage, and express packages; has also perfected the train inspection service on all trains leaving Mobile, and has been engaged in preparing a detention camp at Mount Vernon Barracks, 25 miles north of Mobile.

Surgeon Sawtelle, at Atlanta, Ga., has been conducting supplemental disinfection of mails and baggage, has supervised the train inspection service of trains entering that city and kept the Bureau informed of all matters transpiring in and about Atlanta.

At Cairo, Ill., there has been no further development of fever, and the 4 cases (2 on a barge) have been discharged. The barge *Alpha*, which was infected, has been thoroughly disinfected and the bedding burned under the direction of Passed Assistant Surgeon Kalloch.

At Memphis, Tenn., Passed Assistant Surgeon Young has perfected a supplemental inspection of up-river boats, having obtained through the Secretary of War 2 barges from the Mississippi River Commission for the detention of yellow fever cases and suspected cases. He has also organized, under direction of the Bureau, a train inspection service for all trains entering middle and eastern Tennessee, supplementing the service established by Surgeon Carter in New Orleans and Passed Assistant Surgeon Glennan in Mobile.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Geddings has been on duty at Jackson, Miss., keeping the Bureau informed on all matters relating to Edwards and vicinity, and assisting the executive committee of the State board of health in the matter of guards and otherwise. Has appointed 2 train inspectors on the Alabama and Vicksburg road.

Acting Assistant Surgeon John Guit  ras reported during the week that the Government dredges at Point Pleasant, Mo., had been examined by himself and no traces of yellow fever found there. From Cairo he was ordered to inspect suspicious cases at Delhi and California

in Madison County, northern Louisiana. He found 1 case, a refugee from Edwards, at California. Strict sanitary restraints have been imposed by the parish health officer, Dr. William Kelley. From northern Louisiana Dr. Guitéras proceeded to New Orleans to await orders.

There have been no new foci of infection reported in Alabama outside of Mobile.

In Mississippi no extension of the disease to new points, excepting in the vicinity of Edwards, which is a country community, and at McHenry.

Report (September 30) from Passed Assistant Surgeon Wasdin states that he has diagnosed 2 cases at McHenry, in Jackson County, 25 miles north of the coast. Energetic measures have been adopted by local authorities.

In Louisiana, outside of New Orleans, 1 case has been reported at Algiers, opposite the first-named city. No other cases, excepting 1 at California, previously mentioned.

There have been no cases reported from Texas, with the exception of 1 case (fatal) at Beaumont; origin, unknown.

One death has been reported from Louisville, Ky., a refugee, who left Mobile on September 7.

Classification of freight for disinfection as adopted by the Marine-Hospital Service.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SHIPMENTS UNDER QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS.

In response to the request of the joint meeting of the representatives of the industrial, mercantile, health, and transportation interests of New Orleans, held September 16, we beg to advise that merchandise and commodities may be safely handled and transported from New Orleans in accordance with the regulations as mentioned below, which are in accord with the State and Interstate Quarantine Regulations, adopted by the United States Government, and which are essentially the same as those required for similar articles of merchandise before entry into the United States from places infected with yellow fever, such as Cuba and Rio de Janeiro:

Class No. 1.—All new and dry material unpacked, such as lumber, machinery, brick, bar and sheet iron, tin, steel, agricultural implements, iron ties, staves, saddlery, wagons, new furniture, new trunks, hardware without packing, lime, etc., being incapable of conveying infection, require no disinfection.

Class No. 2.—All goods in original wooden or metal packages, not broken in New Orleans, do not require disinfection except outside of container.

Class No. 3.—Goods packed in textile material, not broken in New Orleans, and kept perfectly dry, do not require disinfection, except the container.

Class No. 4.—Fruits, sound, and taken directly from the vessel, and transferred immediately to the cars for shipment, require no disinfection.

Class Nos. 2, 3, and 4.—The outside of containers must be submitted to disinfection.